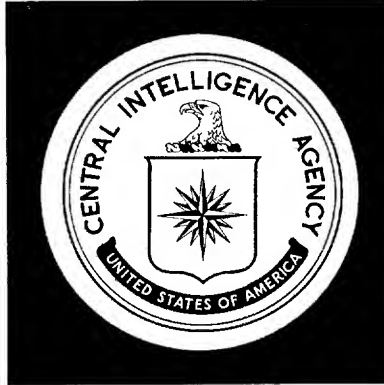


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Intelligence Memorandum

*DISPOSITION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE
ARMY (NVA) FORCES as of 29 MARCH 1972*

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

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6 October 1972
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

6 October 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DISPOSITION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FORCES
As of 29 March 1972

1. Attached to this memorandum is a list of major North Vietnamese Army (NVA) tactical units and their geographical location as of 29 March 1972, i.e., immediately prior to the initiation of the North Vietnamese offensive on 30 March. Also attached is a map which shows the disposition of these forces, as well as the Binh Trams of the North Vietnamese Army's General Directorate of Rear Services.

2. We have arbitrarily designated the area from Vinh in North Vietnam to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and that part of southern Laos adjacent to Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces as the northern MR 1 Threat Area, and under this geographic heading we have listed a number of units which belong to major enemy commands (i.e., the B-5 Front along the DMZ) and units which we now know were moving through this area in late March, en route to subsequent combat operations in northern South Vietnam. We have not included those NVA units which were in the northern part of North Vietnam

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at the time the offensive was launched -- such as training divisions and general reserve units -- even though, subsequently, some of these organizations, i.e., the 320B and 325C Divisions, were eventually committed in South Vietnam.

3. Estimated strengths of NVA combat forces in the four areas described below include combat and administrative services personnel as of 29 March 1972.

North Vietnam	20,000
South Vietnam	100,000
Laos*	95,000
Cambodia	<u>35,000</u>
	250,000

*includes personnel in air defense units.

4. Although the chart and map depict major North Vietnamese tactical units and their disposition, they understate Hanoi's actual manpower input to the war. Many units nominally designated as "VC" units have a high percentage of NVA troops. For example, a recent rallier -- a political officer who joined the VC in 1961 and has been an official party member since 1965 -- stated that by the time the North Vietnamese offensive began on 30 March, the "VC" 9th Division was made up almost entirely of NVA personnel, while southern VC troops numbered only about 1,000. At that time, we estimated the Division's total strength at nearly 7,000 men.

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NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY

DISPOSITION AND SUBORDINATION - MARCH 1972
(Units marked with an asterisk were physi-
cally located inside South Vietnam as of
29 March 1972.)

I. Northern MR-1 Threat Area

308th NVA Div
36th NVA Regt
88th NVA Regt
102nd NVA Regt

304th NVA Div
9th NVA Regt

138th NVA Regt
164th NVA Arty Regt
204th NVA Arty Regt
202d NVA Armd Regt
203d NVA Armd Regt

B-5 Front

304th NVA Div
24B NVA Regt
66th NVA Regt*
68th NVA Arty Regt

27th NVA Regt*
31st NVA Regt
270th NVA Regt
38th NVA Arty Regt*
84th NVA Arty Regt

II. Front-7/Military Region Tri Thien Hue (MRTTH)*

324B NVA Div*
29th NVA Regt*
803rd NVA Regt*
812th NVA Regt*

5th NVA Regt*
6th NVA Regt*
675B NVA Arty Regt*

III. Front-4*

38th NVA Regt*
711th NVA Div*
3rd NVA Regt (AKA 31st NVA Regt)*

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IV. B-3 Front*

320th NVA Div*

48th NVA Regt*

52C NVA Regt*

64th NVA Regt*

28th NVA Regt*

66th NVA Regt*

95B NVA Regt*

141st NVA Regt (Sub to 2d Div)*

40th NVA Arty Regt*

400th NVA SPR Regt*

V. Headquarters, MR-5*

3rd NVA Div*

2d NVA Regt*

12th NVA Regt*

21st NVA Regt*

VI. Headquarters, Central Office South Vietnam (COSVN)

Vietnamese Communist Headquarters, SVN

Headquarters SVN Artillery Command

96th NVA Arty Regt

208th NVA Arty Regt

1st NVA Div (Now Phuoc Long Front)

44th NVA Sapper Regt

48th NVA Regt

52nd NVA Regt

101D NVA Regt

7th NVA Div

141st NVA Regt

165th NVA Regt

209th NVA Regt

429th Sapper Group

Independent Regts, Except as Noted

174th NVA Regt (Sub to 5th VC Div)

18B NVA Regt (Sub to VC Mr-3)*

88th NVA Regt (Sub to VC MR-3)

95th NVA Regt (Sub to VC MR-3)*

24th NVA Regt (Sub to C30-B VC Div)

32d NVA Regt

33d NVA Regt*

101st NVA Regt *(Sub to C30-B VC Div)

271st NVA Regt*

95C NVA Regt (Sub to 9th VC Div)

74th NVA Arty Regt*

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VII. Laos

Northern Laos (Military Regions I and II) Senior
NVA Advisory Mission (not on map located Sam Neua)

312th NVA Div
141st NVA Regt
165th NVA Regt
209th NVA Regt

316th NVA Div
148th NVA Regt
174th NVA Regt

8th NVA Regt
335th NVA Regt
766th NVA Regt
866th NVA Regt

Southern Laos

Front Y (Senior Command and Control Entity)
2nd NVA Div Hqs
9th NVA Regt
29th NVA Regt
39th NVA Regt

VIII. Binh Tram System

North Vietnam

Headquarters Military Region 559 - Senior
controller of all logistical activity in
support of NVA forces in southern North
Vietnam which are committed against South
Vietnam, and NVA forces in south Laos.

BT 18
BT 25
BT 28
BT 16
BT 17

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Northern Laos

BT 25
BT 24
BT 13
BT 11 (Headquarters in North Vietnam at
Napa Pass)

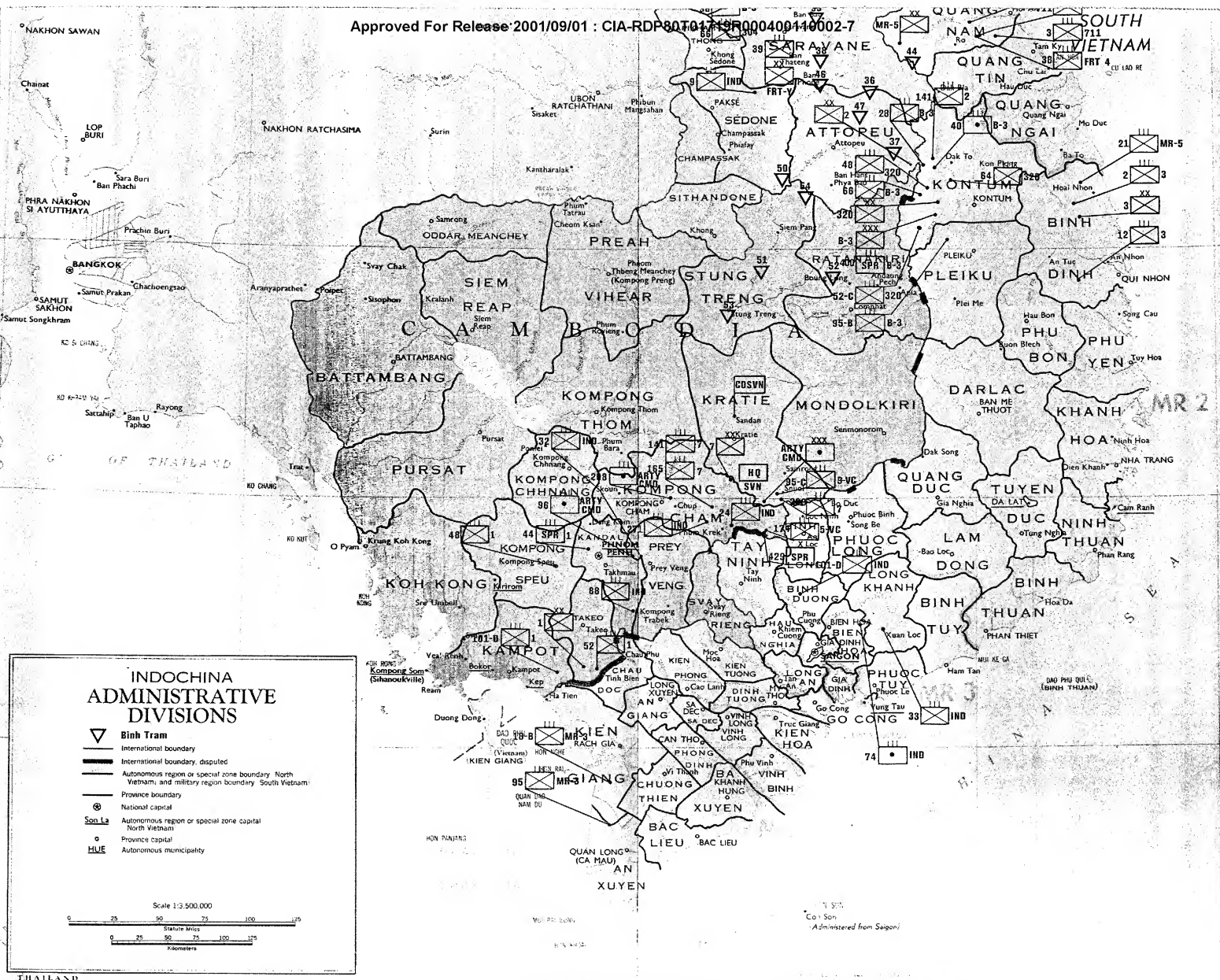
Southern Laos - Binh Trams are listed in order
of location in a north to south orientation.

BT 12	BT 31	BT 35
BT 14	BT 33	BT 44
BT 30	BT 41	BT 38
BT 15	BT 39	BT 46
BT 9	BT 42	BT 36
BT 27	BT 45	BT 47
BT 32	BT 34	BT 37
		BT 50

Cambodia

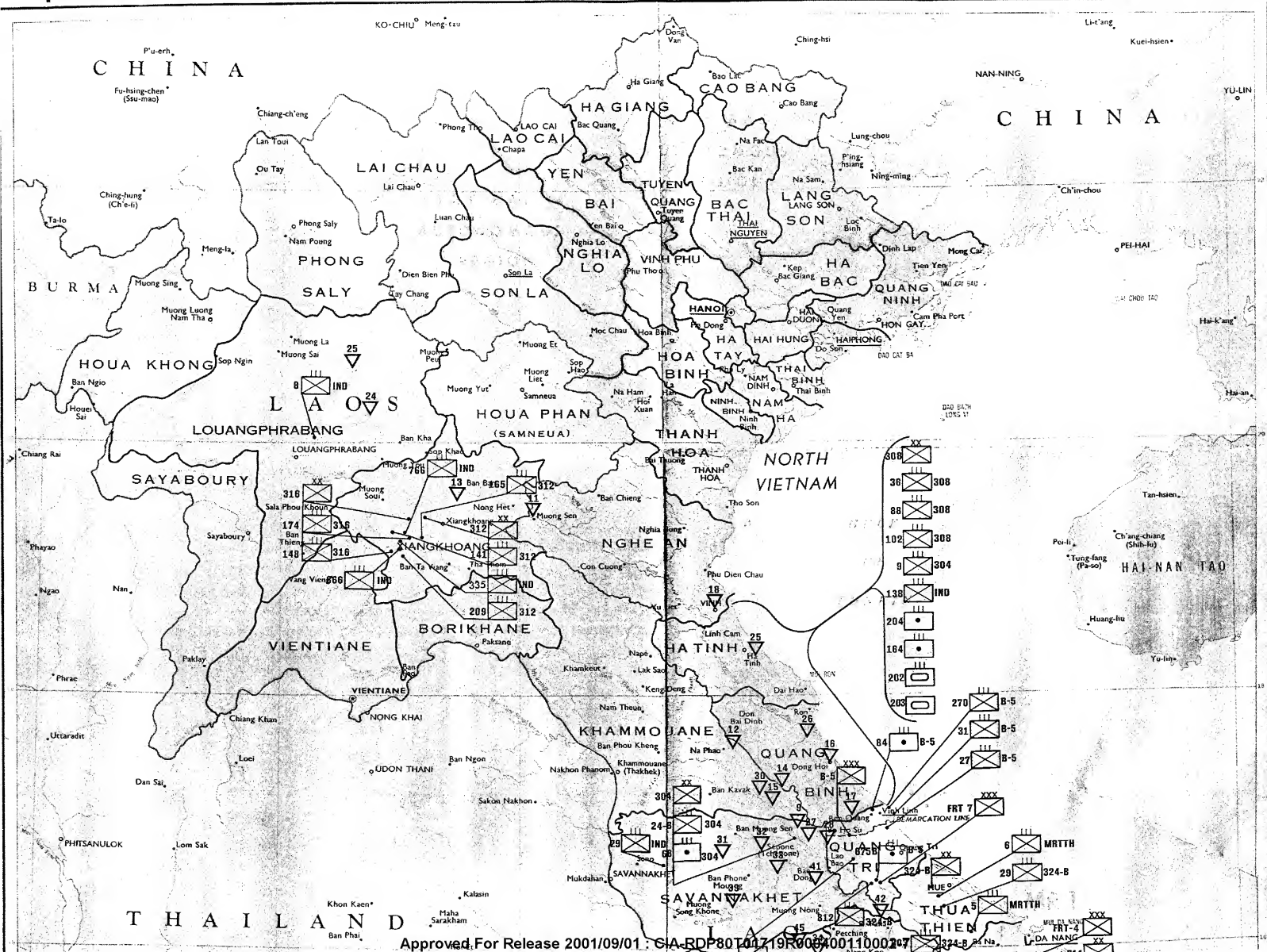
BT 52
BT 54
BT 51
BT 53

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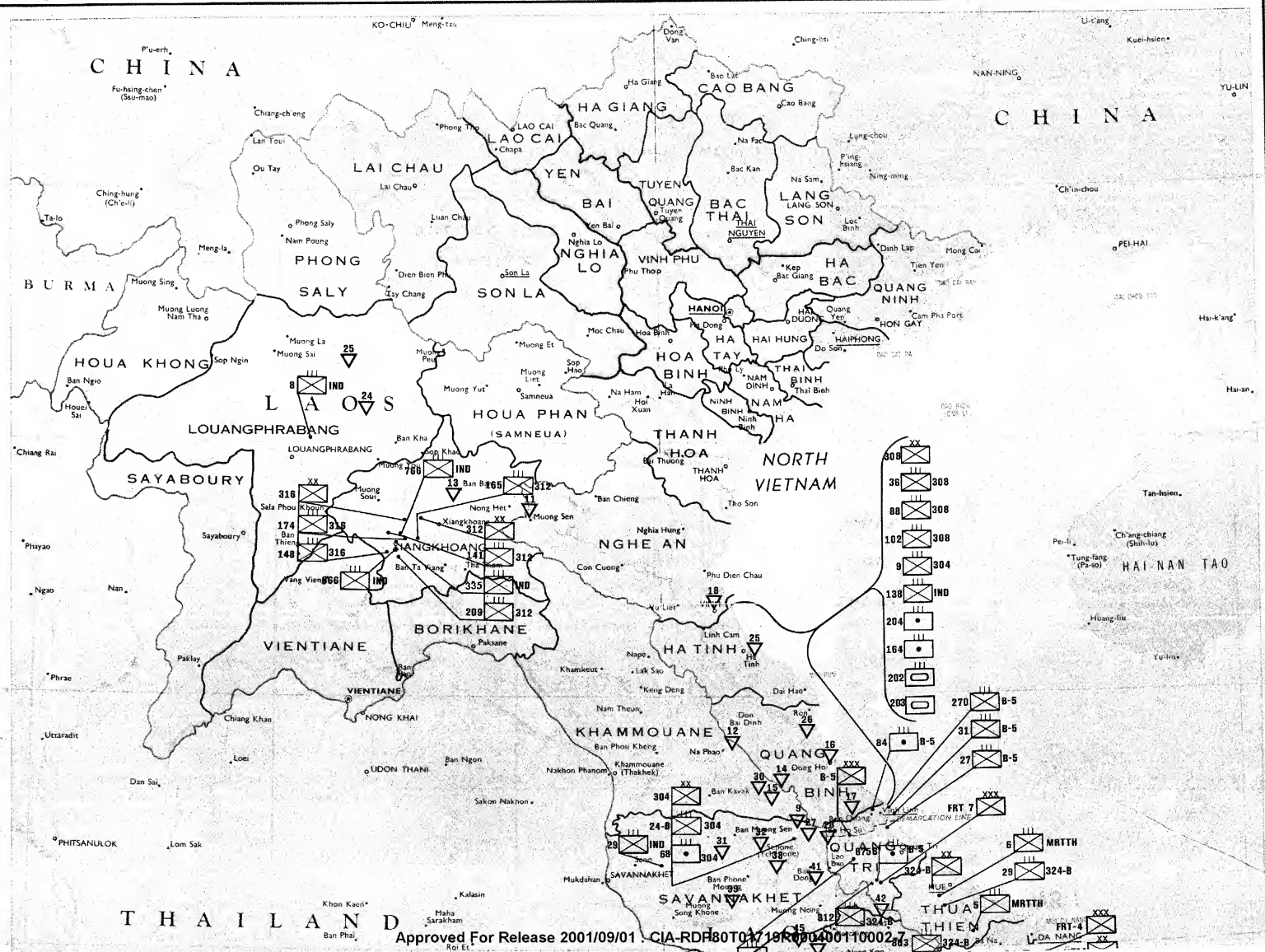
Disposition Of North Vietnamese Army Forces, As Of 29 March 1972

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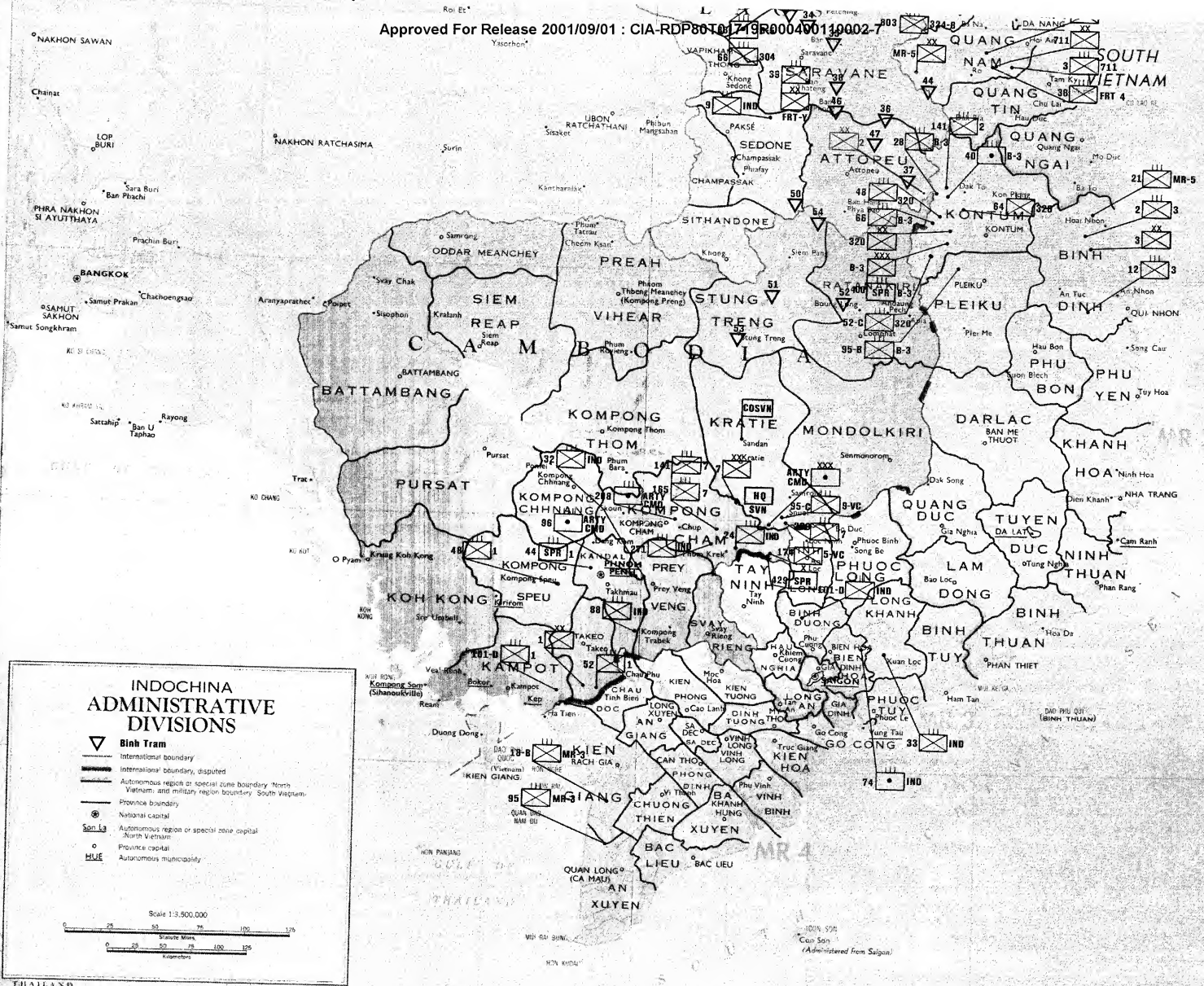


Disposition Of North Vietnamese Army Forces, As Of 29 March 1972

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